



Air Monitoring Specialist Certification Requirements

Colorado Regulation No. 8, Part B, Section II.D. specifies the Colorado Air Monitoring Specialist (AMS) certification requirements. This document details the process by which the Air Pollution Control Division (Division) expects initial Colorado AMS candidates to satisfy the training, education, and experience requirements in Colorado Regulation No. 8, Part B, Section II.D.3.a. prior to certification.

Training - A candidate must successfully complete a Division approved Air Monitoring Specialist initial course, including passing the course administered exam. Attendance at portions of the course that focus solely on air-monitoring techniques is not required of a candidate that is certified by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene as a Certified Industrial Hygienist.

Education - The candidate must have a high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (G.E.D.)

Experience - The candidate must complete the following on-the-job training:

A. Under the “direct observation” of a certified AMS, the candidate must participate in a minimum of 6 final visual inspections and 6 final air clearances on Division permitted asbestos abatement projects. An eligible project is one for which the Division has issued a permit (an asbestos project with abatement of friable asbestos-containing material greater than the trigger levels). Non-friable projects or Single-Family Residential Dwelling Opt-out projects (projects for which a Notice is issued) are not eligible to be substituted even if sampling is conducted at the conclusion of the project.

For the purposes of Section II.D.3.a.(ii)(A), “direct observation” means that the certified AMS must be present in the regulated work area with the AMS candidate. The certified AMS must observe the candidate as they conduct the visual inspection, use the leaf blower, determine the placement of stationary fan(s) and sample locations, as well as calibrate the sampling equipment and collect the samples. The certified AMS should offer feedback and coaching on the candidate’s work, providing correction and instruction as needed. The certified AMS must ensure that the visual inspection and air sampling have been done in accordance with applicable requirements.

B. Under the “supervision” of a certified AMS, the candidate must perform a minimum of 80 hours of ambient air monitoring. The ambient air monitoring must be asbestos related (e.g., ambient sampling before or during an asbestos project.) This experience may be obtained on either friable or non-friable asbestos projects.

Examples of ambient air monitoring that may be conducted by the AMS candidate include:

- pre abatement (background) samples on asbestos projects,

- interior and exterior work area samples collected during asbestos abatement projects,
- final air clearance sampling time in addition to the required 6 final air clearances or clearance sampling time not required under Regulation No. 8, Part B, and
- asbestos air samples on asbestos in soils projects conducted under the Colorado solid waste regulation 6 CCR 1007-2 Part 1, Section 5.

For the purposes of Section II.D.3.a.(ii)(B), “supervision” means that the certified AMS must discuss the sampling strategy with the candidate and work with them to establish a sampling plan. The certified AMS should be readily available to the candidate throughout the sampling period, either through direct or electronic contact, in order to answer questions or provide additional guidance.

The Division requires a candidate to have the required education before beginning the certification process. The Division expects the initial AMS course to be taken prior to obtaining the required experience. The requirement to complete training before conducting any regulated activity is consistent with the requirements of the MAP (Model Accreditation Plan) for the other asbestos disciplines and Regulation Number 8, Part B. AMS candidates should have awareness of the dangers of asbestos, know and understand the basics of air sampling, equipment handling, and regulatory requirements, all of which are taught during the course, before going out into the field.

However, the Division will allow for a maximum of 20% (16 hours) of ambient air monitoring (required under Section II.D.3.a.(ii)(B)) to be conducted prior to the successful completion of the required training class. The Division requires that a candidate has successfully completed the required training course prior to conducting any final visual or air sampling (required under Section II.D.3.a.(ii)(A)).

All air sampling required to be conducted by a certified AMS under Regulation No. 8, Part B, such as final clearance air sampling, sampling for the Maximum Allowable Asbestos Level (MAAL), or spill delineation must always be directly observed and certified by the credentialed AMS. An AMS candidate may conduct these activities only under the constant and direct observation of a certified AMS.

Final air clearance sampling time conducted as part of the required minimum 6 final air clearances on Division permitted asbestos abatement projects does not qualify as ambient air monitoring for purposes of AMS on-the-job training requirements. Sampling for the MAAL or spill delineation does qualify as ambient air monitoring but as noted above, these activities must always be conducted under the constant and direct observation of a certified AMS.

Note - Time spent collecting air samples for personal exposure monitoring is not eligible for inclusion in meeting any of the AMS candidate on-the-job training requirements.